

Support for S.B. No. 184 (Changes Regarding Election Administration as a Result of COVID-19 and Concerning Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot) and H.B. 5262 (An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes)

Submitted to the Government Administration and Elections Committee, as Testimony before its Public Hearing on S.B. No. 184 and H.B. 5262 on Friday, March 4, 2022, at 10 a.m.

My name is **Bart Donahoe**, and I am a voter in Stamford, Connecticut. I am writing in support of **S.B. No. 184** (Changes Regarding Election Administration as a Result of COVID-19 and Concerning Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot) and **H.B. 5262** (An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes).

It is imperative that Connecticut's voting laws, and particularly those regarding absentee ballot voting, should align with the provisions and language in our State Constitution. In fact, our state's election laws should permit "no excuse" voting by absentee ballot.

I am over 70 years old and almost every day I find that I am no longer able to do some task because my body is just not capable to perform it anymore. I fear the day when I'm told that I cannot drive anymore. I do not want to have to rely on friends and family to help me do something that can and should be made easy enough that anyone do it on their own. Voting should be one of those things.

Connecticut's current election laws are more restrictive than our State Constitution requires. H.B. 5262 in particular aligns the language in our state laws to conform with our Constitution's wording. Personally, I believe that every legally registered voter should automatically receive an absentee ballot in the mail to vote similar to Oregon's system. But that's for another day. The passing of the proposed bills above would be a good start.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Bart Donahoe
Stamford, Connecticut
March 3, 2022

Support S.B.184 and H.B. 5262